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§ 416.641 Liability for misuse of benefit payments.

Our obligation to the beneficiary is completely discharged when we make a correct payment to a representative payee on behalf of the beneficiary. The payee personally, and not SSA, may be liable if the payee misuses the beneficiary's benefits.

§ 416.645 Conservation and investment of benefit payments.

(a) *General.* If payments are not needed for the beneficiary's current maintenance or reasonably foreseeable needs, they shall be conserved or invested on behalf of the beneficiary. Conserved funds should be invested in accordance with the rules followed by trustees. Any investment must show clearly that the payee holds the property in trust for the beneficiary.

Example: A State institution for mentally retarded children, which is receiving Medicaid funds, is representative payee for several beneficiaries. The checks the payee receives are deposited into one account which shows that the benefits are held in trust for the beneficiaries. The institution has supporting records which show the share each individual has in the account. Funds from this account are disbursed fairly quickly after receipt for the personal needs of the beneficiaries. However, not all those funds were disbursed for this purpose. As a result, several of the beneficiaries have significant accumulated resources in this account. For those beneficiaries whose benefits have accumulated over \$150, the funds should be deposited in an interest-bearing account or invested relatively free of risk on behalf of the beneficiaries.

(b) *Preferred investments.* Preferred investments for excess funds are U.S. Savings Bonds and deposits in an interest or dividend paying account in a bank, trust company, credit union, or savings and loan association which is insured under either Federal or State law. The account must be in a form which shows clearly that the representative payee has only a fiduciary and not a personal interest in the funds. If the payee is the legally appointed guardian or fiduciary of the beneficiary, the account may be established to indicate this relationship. If the payee is not the legally appointed guardian or fiduciary, the accounts may be established as follows:

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(1) For U.S. Savings Bonds—

(Name of beneficiary)
(Social Security Number), for whom
(Name of payee) is representative payee for Supplemental Security Income benefits;

(2) For interest or dividend paying accounts—

(Name of beneficiary) by
(Name of payee), representative payee.

(c) *Interest and dividend payments.* The interest and dividends which result from an investment are the property of the beneficiary and may not be considered to be the property of the payee.

§ 416.650 When a new representative payee will be selected.

When we learn that the interests of the beneficiary are not served by continuing payment to the present payee or that the present payee is no longer able to carry out the payee responsibilities, we try to find a new payee. We will select a new payee if we find a preferred payee or if the present payee—

(a) Has not used the benefit payments on the beneficiary's behalf in accordance with the guidelines in this subpart;

(b) Has not carried out the other responsibilities described in this subpart;

(c) Dies;

(d) No longer wishes to be payee;

(e) Is unable to manage the benefit payments; or

(f) Fails to cooperate, within a reasonable time, in providing evidence, accounting, or other information which we request.

§ 416.655 When representative payment will be stopped.

If a beneficiary receiving representative payment shows us that he or she is mentally and physically able to manage or direct the management of benefit payments, we will make direct payment. Information which the beneficiary may give us to support his or her request for direct payment include the following—

(a) A physician's statement regarding the beneficiary's condition, or a statement by a medical officer of the institution where the beneficiary is or was confined, showing that the beneficiary

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is able to manage or direct the management of his or her funds; or

(b) A certified copy of a court order restoring the beneficiary's rights in a case where a beneficiary was adjudged legally incompetent; or

(c) Other evidence which establishes the beneficiary's ability to manage or direct the management of benefits.

§416.660 Transfer of accumulated benefit payments.

A representative payee who has conserved or invested benefit payments shall transfer these funds, and the interest earned from the invested funds, to either a successor payee, or to us, as we will specify. If the funds and the earned interest are returned to us, we will recertify them to a successor representative payee or to the beneficiary.

§416.665 Accounting for benefit payments.

A representative payee is accountable for the use of benefits. We may require periodic written reports from representative payees. We may also, in certain situations, verify how a representative payee used the funds. A representative payee should keep records of what was done with the benefit payments in order to make accounting reports. We may ask the following questions—

(a) The amount of benefit payments on hand at the beginning of the accounting period;

(b) How the benefit payments were used;

(c) How much of the benefit payments were saved and how the savings were invested;

(d) Where the beneficiary lived during the accounting period; and

(e) The amount of the beneficiary's income from other sources during the accounting period. We ask for information about other funds to enable us to evaluate the use of benefit payments.

Subpart G—Reports Required

AUTHORITY: Secs. 702(a)(5), 1611, 1612, 1613, 1614, and 1631 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 902(a)(5), 1382, 1382a, 1382b, 1382c, and 1383); sec. 211, Pub. L. 93-66, 87 Stat. 154 (42 U.S.C. 1382 note).

SOURCE: 46 FR 5873, Jan. 21, 1981, unless otherwise noted.

INTRODUCTION

§416.701 Scope of subpart.

(a) *Report provisions.* The Social Security Administration, to achieve efficient administration of the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program for the Aged, Blind, and Disabled, requires that you (or your representative) must report certain events to us. It is important for us to know about these events because they may affect your continued eligibility for SSI benefits or the amount of your benefits. This subpart tells you what events you must report; what your reports must include; and when reports are due. The rules regarding reports are in §§416.704 through 416.714.

(b) *Penalty deductions.* If you fail to make a required report when it is due, you may suffer a penalty. This subpart describes the penalties; discusses when we may impose them; and explains that we will not impose a penalty if you have good cause for failing to report timely. The rules regarding penalties are in §§416.722 through 416.732.

§416.702 Definitions.

For purposes of this subpart—

Essential person means someone whose presence was believed to be necessary for your welfare under the State program that preceded the SSI program. (See §§416.220 through 416.223 of this part.)

Parent means a natural parent, an adoptive parent, or the spouse of a natural or adoptive parent.

Representative payee means an individual, an agency, or an institution selected by us to receive and manage SSI benefits on your behalf. (See subpart F of this part for details describing when a representative payee is selected and a representative payee's responsibilities.)

Residence in the United States means that your permanent home is in the United States.

United States or *U.S.* means the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the Northern Mariana Islands.

We, Us, or Our means the Social Security Administration.